

Christian Qualifications

Let us look now at the nature of the Body of Christ and the requirements it must meet before it can be trusted to go out to represent Jesus Christ in the direct conflict of the Climax of the Ages just shortly ahead. While it is true that Jesus Christ as a man did overcome and obtain victory over all principalities and powers of sin and death almost 2,000 years ago for all in the world, it is in God's plan that this absolute victory also be demonstrated in an end-time Body of men totally dedicated to Jesus Christ. This climax is to be *the* fulfillment of an objective established ages ago. The preparation of all participating must be complete and perfect before the event. The enemy is still strong and crafty; there is little room for ineptitude. That Body must be perfectly trained and perfectly responsive to every directive, or the victory will not be completely demonstrated.

Why is this victory event so important since Jesus Christ already has won a complete victory for the world? Ages ago God gave a stewardship to Satan who was the anointed cherub, perfect in all his ways (*Ezek. 28:12-15*). Satan was in God's heaven with Him, but then pride entered Satan. However, it is required of a steward that he be found faithful (*I Cor. 4:2*). He is expected to use the position as intended, but he may choose to misuse it. It is a trust to use or misuse. Because God has further purpose in it, He has not removed Satan from his stewardship even though it is being used to foster rebellion against God. Currently, the stewardship is the rule over earth and its environs (*I Cor. 10:26; Jn. 12:31, 14:30; Eph. 2:2, 6:12*).

Satan has been driven out of God's high heaven by a guardian cherub (*Ezek. 28:16*), because he has been weakening nations (*Isa. 14:12*) and because he has been making the world a wilderness (*Isa. 14:17*). Because, in His wisdom, God had further use of Satan's role as a means of testing and maturing mankind, it was decreed that the driving out would be in stages, and Satan knows it. Within the personal "world" of each man, Satan's "heaven" of operation is in the mind and emotions. These bring about the human physical responses in his "earth." So it becomes clear that overcoming thought and emotional impulses removes the ground on which Satan stands. Having evicted him, even our "feet," our way or direction of life, trample him.

From the Bible, it is obviously God's plan that the Body of Christ would capture Satan's empire (*Dan. 7:22, 2:45; Rom. 16:20; Eph. 6:11-12*), by overcoming the current ruler and his whole organization. Therefore, the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ in becoming sin for the world, taking yours and mine upon Himself, was but a preparatory step, though a most important one, in bringing the plan of God toward completion and depriving Satan and his followers of the remainder of his empire. By His sacrifice Jesus Christ made it quite easy and practical for men to be enabled by the Holy Spirit.

These men, though weak as babes in their own strength as compared to Satan's, become as strong as God when fully indwelt and fully submissive to Him and to His

purposes. In His great wisdom, God has chosen the weak and the foolish to crush Satan (*I Cor. 1:27, Rom. 16:20*). Some of us of this generation, if we are completely willing, will be the ones to wrest Satan's empire from him and place all things under the feet of Christ. We, if we will accept it, are to be the feet of the Body whose Ruler is Christ. The transfer of authority and rule in the empire of Satan to the Kingdom of Christ, personally and terrestrially, is the most important event since the fall of the world of mankind thousands of years ago. And it all will be effected within the next few years, according to repeated prophecy.

Participation in an event of such importance surely requires most careful attention in allowing the Lord complete freedom in training and preparing individuals and, even more importantly, a functioning Body under His leadership. Because of the strength and cunning of the enemy, our Lord cannot tolerate an inadequate response in the final action. Since all His work must be complete or mature (the meaning of "perfect"), He cannot be pleased and cannot accept a performance which is less than complete. He *must* weed out all hesitations, withdrawing and questioning of His directives before He places a man in the front line of this battle of the ages.

Man himself does not place untrained, immature children in charge of critical battle areas in military contests to demonstrate supremacy. Neither is God's wisdom and foresight less developed than man's. Man himself does not knowingly trust the out-working of important events to one who has not already demonstrated thorough loyalty and a well developed sense of responsibility. Neither does God. Those in the army of Jesus Christ, the King, whom He will use in returning the kingdoms of earth to His rule, will be those who have set themselves apart exclusively for His purposes and objectives (*I Pet. 1:16*). They will be those whom He has been permitted to teach and mature (*Matt. 5:48*). And they will be those who have demonstrated that they will remain loyal to Jesus under any and all circumstances, free of any other alliances, and virgin to Him (*Rev. 14:1-5*). To be so employed, our will must have become as His will, by our choice and by our response.

How can any man reach these qualifications? After having enrolled in His service, through forming a heart union with Him, the living habits of self-serving independence must be replaced by living habits of trusting in, depending on, and conforming to His plan in thought, attitude, purpose and action (His righteousness – *Matt. 6:33*), without regard to reward or no reward. A willing servant, or bondsman, even though he be a young son inheriting all that belongs to his father, has the responsibility of performing the master's will, just because it is his will – not for reward. The shifting over from self-serving to exclusively working out God's will in every small and every larger thing is the process of the human spirit's maturing.

This, the maturing of the human spirit, is the higher reason for God humiliating Himself in human flesh and giving up His all as a sacrifice (*Phil. 2:4-9*). This is His goal for every human spirit (*Heb. 2:14-15*). "Getting saved," or being "born again," and even receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit bring any human only to the nursing infant stage of the new life of discipleship in Christ (*Heb. 5:11-14, 6:1-3*). The eventual goal is spiritual maturity to at least a measure of the full stature of Jesus Christ so that He can delegate those things He Himself would do to a trained and proven individual, with the knowledge that it will be faithfully and properly accomplished (*Eph. 4:12-14*). Such a prepared man will have willingly and joyfully set all other things aside for the

desire, purpose and objective of the Master, becoming holy as He is holy (*Phil. 3:8*). Such a one will have become prepared by learning to continuously, consistently follow Jesus wherever He goes, whenever He goes. He follows willingly, joyfully, thankfully, in trust, not necessarily understanding all that is developing, perhaps not physically liking some of it, but in confidence of the outcome, just because the Word of God is Truth (*Jn. 3:33, I Thess. 5:16-18, Jms. 1:2-4*).

Progress in such preparation is impossible for any man, if he employs only his own mental and physical abilities apart from God's plan (*Rom. 7:18,25*). It is the same in the human family – without schooling and training, there is no progress. Only supernatural teaching and enabling help from Jesus *and* the personal application of truth brought to understanding by the Holy Spirit will bring on the required progress (*Rom. 7:24; Matt. 3:10-11; Acts 1:8; Eph. 1:13-14, 4:22-24*). Progress requires understanding the purpose for and the accepting of all that God offers for this purpose. But progress also requires man's personal cooperation through the exercise of his initiative in applying what he has accepted (*Phil. 2:12, Jms. 1:22-24*).

Continuing in the path of progress and preparation requires the *practice* of overcoming the self-life of human nature (*Heb. 5:14, Gal. 5:16*). It requires learning to properly employ the Spirit's *measured* out power of special enablement (*Jn. 3:34*). It requires learning to reject out of hand and set aside all of the direct and subtle propositions from Satan (*Eph. 4:27, Jms. 4:6-8*). Progress in preparation can continue only in an environment of purity and honesty in the heart (*Ps. 51:6*). If any man perceives continuing nonconformance in his heart (lack of repentance), he thereby shuts off transmission of his prayers and God does not hear (*Ps. 66:18, I Pet. 3:7*).

Honesty brings much and increasing praise of the Lord as He reveals more and more of Himself and His plan, for He is truly worthy of praise. He tells man that he should continually rejoice, give thanks and praise Him for however much of Jesus is revealed, because honesty requires such recognition. He desires to give man more and more of a revelation of Himself, which provides the foundation for ever more praise (*I Thess. 5:16, Phil. 4:4-6, Jn. 14:21, Jer. 29:13, Rev. 19:1-7*). Progress in maturing requires development of the habit of careful listening to His counsel in the Word and much thought on the "dark sayings" of symbolism – followed by volitional response in conformance to that which He reveals (*Jms. 2:20,26; Rev. 22:12*).

Preparation for taking on the full-blown conflict of the ages to wrest control of the earth and its kingdoms from Satan's usurpation and to return all to the King of kings and Lord of lords must first begin with personal overcoming in an inner battle. Complete victory within is demonstrated by an absolute ejection of and severance from all factors which could possibly give Satan a foot-hold (*Eph. 4:27; Jn. 14:30; I Pet. 2:21, 5:8-9*). This is a prerequisite in preparation for the external battle which will eject Satan from all of his empire stewardship, both from the atmospheric heavens and the earth sphere itself (*Rev. 12:9-1*). When the human being has learned to submit to God and no longer submit to Satan in any way, that man has overcome his inner microcosm world (*Jms. 4:7-8*). Then can he confidently tackle Satan in the outer macrocosm world. When Satan has nothing in that person to stand on, as it was with Jesus, that man is ready for the external overcoming across the board – not before (*Jn. 14:30*). First, there must be the learning of all that the Holy Spirit Baptism is for, and the learning of how to consistently maintain the resultant purity (*Col. 2:11-12*).

But the maturing of no man is accomplished apart from the interaction between individuals within the Body of Christians. God is preparing an effective army of many people to take over Satan's empire. Of necessity, that army must function as a unit that is impossible to divide or break up. Each member of the Body is dependent in some measure on the activity of other members of the Body, and this cooperation is more important even than any individual attainment (*Eph. 4:16, I Cor. 12:26-27*).

Those who will be in this army must become matured also as a Body in unity of trust and love of the kind that God demonstrates. The practice leading to Body maturity and unity comes by eagerness for *balanced* study, training and recognition of Divine authority (worship), along with others in the Body. Unity comes through practicing the exercises designed by the Lord, among others in the Body (ministry). Maturity comes from engaging, as a Body, in practice skirmishes with the enemy's forces. The Body must become so unified and bonded in God's love and purity between its members, that there is little possibility of *anything* bringing division or separation, discord or unwillingness to follow direction from Jesus Christ through the authorities He sets in the Body. There should be minimum risk of failure to follow through on His directions during the final conflict with the forces of Satan – even if it seems by human evaluation to be impossible. Jesus *has* overcome Satan completely, and He plans to fill out the same pattern in us.

From God's perspective, the ones in an overcoming position are those who have been willing to place their complete trust in Him and respond in obedience to Him in His Word, knowing all of God's arranging for success is finished (*I Jn. 4:4, 5:4*). From man's perspective, the overcoming is a ready potential to be made factual by his initiative in applying what God provides. All that remains to be done is man's demonstrating the fact that Jesus did accomplish and finish *all* upon the Cross (*Jn. 19:30*). Nothing less will be adequate to accomplish God's purpose of restoring the rule of Jesus Christ over all. But He *will* have a Body of people suitably qualified and welded together by practice in righteousness – and in time to consummate His plan, whether that Body be large or small.

There is still enough time for this thorough preparation, but not time to play at it. Those who are fully ready before the Great Tribulation starts, are to join the heavenly hosts and participate on that level of empowerment and authority (*Rev. 12:5*). Others somewhat less prepared and less yielded to Jesus Christ by that time are candidates for the earthly army, specially empowered to do works of wonder, as was Elijah (*Rev. 12:17*). During the Great Tribulation, the way will be open for others to join the earthly army as they too thoroughly prepare. But all must prepare under the same rules. God is no respecter of persons (*Rom. 2:11*). At the end of the Tribulation, all who will have become *fully* prepared, and only those, will then join the heavenly army to complete the undoing of Satan and his followers and assist in the mop-up operations (*Rev. 19:14-21*).

God has set up an immutable schedule for Satan and his hosts to be moved out and the saints to be moved in. But God must have a completely loyal, completely reliable army to accomplish His purpose within that schedule. He can do the job with His loyal army, whether its numbers are very few or very many, because it will be *His* completely adequate power in them that produces the result. Since great glory and great spoil are the lot of the victors, He is willing and eager that the army include all men. All men, unfortunately, are not sufficiently interested to give the time to apply themselves with

the diligence which is necessary for thorough preparation. Those disqualify themselves. Others will not give attention to the rigidity of God's schedule. They will miss the calls for initial or even subsequent phases of the spiritual (and physical) offensive. Therefore, our Lord spoke of the fact that many will be invited, but few – only a remnant percentage of Christians – will be selected (**Matt. 22:14**).

The keynote of today, as never before, is preparation of the Body, to weld it into unbreakable unity and to mature it in every aspect, as Jesus Christ was perfected in unity with His Father (**Heb. 2:10**). There is no longer time to play at getting ready, for the Day of the Lord is upon us.

The East Side of Jordan

Readings: *Deut. 1:2,6-8,21-26,34-40,45; Deut. 2:1-9,13,18-19,24-25,32-34; Deut. 3:1-3; Deut. 8:4.*

Scripture gives many pictures of the preparation that is necessary for overcomers, before any can step over into the "Promised Land" of the fullness of life, either earthly or heavenly. Turn now to *Exodus* and *Deuteronomy* to compare the live drama enacted in that day with the pattern in our Church Age. There was the deliverance from Egypt (world order under Satan's control) accompanied by the sacrifice of the lamb. Later, there was Jesus Christ's work of deliverance on the Cross, as *the* Lamb of God. Yet to be accomplished is the great deliverance now being readied as He comes the second time through His anointed Body. There were 12 men who first viewed the Promised Land and obtained *some* of its fruits. Later, there were the 12 Apostles who had a first view of Christ's Promised Land and *some* of its fruits. The number 12 is used symbolically to picture a volitional separation into the ultimate good, and also a completion of the sin cycle into Spirit power. In *Revelation 7* and *14*, we have seen two groups designated by the number 144, which is 12 intensified by its square, and tagged with the three-cipher ending which indicates the completion of the Spirit's work and His rest in the matter. The members of each 144,000 group will be seen in our own day as those who have been separated to the ultimate good, brought to the level of Spirit-power (12), intensified by God's sealing (144) to a finishing of the Spirit's work (144,000) in their respective category.

Following the deliverance from Egypt by the lamb's blood, there was a progressive refusal to trust God completely and the result was a "40" of testing, trial, and proving before entering the physical Promised Land. Following the deliverance of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, there was a progressive refusal to trust God completely and again the result was a wilderness period of "40" for the Jewish nation. Following the deliverance of the Firstfruits 144,000, there will be the "40" of Tribulation testing and trying in preparation and proving for again coming to the spiritual Promised Land. Today, none of our generation is to enter into the Millennium rest, except for the Joshua and Caleb groups, and the matured children of spiritual and natural Israel – those who have been teachable Christians while they were "young" (*Matt. 5:3,5,6*). The calling of Abram to Christ, the Firstfruit, were years of preparation, and then a rejection by man. From Christ's birth to the 144,000 Firstfruits have been years of further preparation, and then rejection by man. But the ruling Kingdom is at last to become man's experience, after almost 6000 years.

In the early days when the Lord was ready to lead Israel into the Promised Land, He led them northward. North symbolizes the material and physical, showing they were expected to *respond* in physical cooperation to reach an earthly Kingdom. The leading involved first entering and possessing the east side of Jordan, employing all their facul-

ties to gain that objective before crossing the Jordan. East symbolically indicates intellect and thought; we too are commanded to bring every thought captive to Christ, to think on higher things (*II Cor. 10:5*). In our time, the Lord again is ready to lead and we are expected to exercise initiative and thoughtful care to follow His plan, turning away from the wilderness of man's ways, including his ecclesiastical ways, and turning to God so He can teach anew.

People are now being led by the Lord toward the Land of Promise so they may inherit all that has been prepared for them through the vicarious atonement of the Son of God. The first among those responding are now to cross over and enter into the full blessings and power of the Kingdom of God. But first, they have had to approach and enter and possess the "land on the east side of the Jordan." Only after this portion of the Promised Land is possessed can those chosen cross the "Jordan" and enter fully into the covenanted promises of deathless life or immortality for the physical body, as well as for the soul.

What must be done before the east side of Jordan can be completely possessed? The Israelites, and this applies also to spiritual Israel, were told first to turn away from the wilderness of man's ways and turn to the Lord so He could teach anew (*Deut. 2:1-3*). There must be a willingness to lay aside *all* which has been previously received from men, all things, so the Lord can establish truth and purity, and then build. That which is learned in the barren wilderness of man's traditions and teaching blinds people from seeing the truth and reality of the fullness of the redemption provided on the Cross.

A mountain symbolizes a kingdom rule. The mountain being circled is Mount Seir in the land of Esau. For centuries, nominal Christians have been going in circles around the same distorted truths cast into the image and likeness of Esau. Esau means "hairy," like a hairy garment, picturing a people who have clothed themselves in the fleshly traditions of man. They have been satisfied with what is earthy, instead of what is spiritual. They have settled for the deadness of the flesh and the barrenness of the wilderness, instead of the life-giving realities of the Spirit and the refreshing waters in the Promised Land (the work of the Spirit in the reality of His promise).

There must be a reconsideration of the things learned at the feet of a priestly caste taught in colleges of darkness. It does not know the fullness of truth and neither does it teach even a measure of the great spirit verities and realities which are now available to the children of the Most High God. Therefore, each man should consider and awaken himself from spiritual stupor and let the Spirit of Truth teach anew from His Word what the Lord has provided. Traditional Christians have known only a bare subsistence in a wilderness outside the fullness of what the Lord has provided.

The Israelites were instructed to completely leave behind the land of Esau and its barrenness. When the inadequacy of life under the total rule of the emotions is recognized and a decision is made to seek out more truth, no goals have been reached. Only when Esau's land is left behind and the border of the next land is crossed at the Zered, has the first step been accomplished. The new experience in the waters of the stream Zered initiates the opportunity for lush growth within God's plan. The advancement and the benefits of partaking in the estate of the 30-fold believer are available for the taking. But still the land of the Ammonites, the fellow countrymen, must be passed through, while avoiding possession of any of it (*Deut. 2:9*). It is too much like the land of Esau and too close. But if the 30-fold believer is then not detained by less zealous

and more passive fellow countrymen along his way, those satisfied with their still barren land, the river Arnon is reached and the Promised Land on Jordan's east side comes into view.

It is written that the Land of Promise is a land of hills and valleys, watered by the rains and dews which the Lord sends, a land so unlike the land of "Egypt" (*Deut. 11:10-11*). Therefore, let us hear and conform to the Word. Let us constantly take stock of ourselves and cease to consider what has been taught in the barrenness of Edom's land. Let us hear the Word of our God and let Him teach us anew the truths and things now available to children of God.

Initially, the Chosen People were to hear the call to move out and leave the wilderness of man's ways. They were to come through the land of Esau, not possessing it but passing through it, progressing through the 0 to 30-folds. In following the Lord's plan, the Israelites then had to cross three streams of water on the east side of Jordan as they moved from the south (symbolizing soulish desire) away from the territory of Esau and onto the land east of the Jordan. They did this *before* they began to possess the whole land of Canaan. In fulfillment of the type, will we not also have to come across the land of the Ammonites and into the land of the Amorites and cross over three streams before we are able to begin possessing our future inheritance?

The first of these streams was the brook Zered (*Deut. 2:13*). The word Zered means "lush in growth" and that which is "luxuriant" and "abundant." It typifies that fruit of the Spirit which must be brought forth by disciples of Christ, even into maturity and completion. This crossing means leaving behind the immature realms in which nominal "Christians" find themselves. It means pressing on into a place of tested and proven character, exhibited by an absolute faithfulness to God in all ways. Those whom God leads into the Promised Land shall surely enter into the realms of the Spirit where a perfecting work within can be done. There the abundance of His fruit can grow luxuriantly, demonstrating the beauty of His holiness and the glory of His Presence. It is hearing the call to leave Mt. Seir in Edom and removing from the carnal pulls that enable the subsequent lush growth. It is a moving away from the 0-fold toward the 30-fold fruitfulness of the Spirit's work within. Yet, the Chosen of God were not to possess what was given or seemed to have been given to those around them. They were not to copy their progress or lack of it, and they were not to be satisfied with their immature and casual beliefs. The Chosen of God were to press on to completely subdue all opposition. The Zered was the boundary between Edom and Moab (*Deut. 2:13-18*). Moab pictured characteristics similar to those of Ammon (*Deut. 2:9,19*).

The second stream is the Arnon (*Deut. 2:24*), meaning "a rushing torrent," one which plunges through a gorge at a rapid pace. When a thoughtful believer in Christ has exhibited his willingness to be led toward maturity, deciding to move on in the pattern presented, then God will begin to move rapidly to bring him into the stream of His purpose. He will cause him to experience the flow of "rushing waters" from the Holy Spirit in the 60-fold estate (the "born again" event), and His moving will be in preparation for the final Great Outpouring of the Spirit in our time (*Joel 2:28*).

First a preliminary and preparatory work must be done. There must be the consistent washing of the water of the Word, and there must be increasing experience in the realm of His Spirit that has not been known before the Zered and the Arnon. The Amorites were north of both the Arnon and the third stream, the Jabbok, speaking of the need for

physical response in order to progress. In the land of Sihon, all that rises up against God's truth and against His people must be overcome. All the endeavors to root out the whole Truth and replace it with half-truths, in order to destroy God's Word, must be conquered and put down. There at the Arnon, they were to begin *possessing* the land of the Amorites (high, lifted up, proud, haughty), by slaying every one of them, refusing dominion of any one of them, denying their qualities in self and denying the influence of those qualities from others. At this stage, there is to be overcoming of whatever places limits on God and on His plan.

Only those who are eager to see God move by His Spirit in a way they have not known before and who will dedicate themselves to His plan shall be able to continue in the conquest of the east side of Jordan. Much yet remains to be done in perfecting the Spiritual Body which is being raised up and joined together. Prepare your hearts, for as you press in, you shall be engulfed in a mighty stream of spiritual power and blessing. Be not fearful, for God will protect from the wiles and deceptive devices of the enemy, even though they have also begun to come against God's people as a mighty flood or torrent. God promises complete protection to those who put their *full* trust in Him (in His Word – so you must know it). He promises keen discernment so those will know what is from the enemy. The Land of Promise is a land where God's gifts shall flow in abundance. It is in that "land" where the Body of Christians shall be *fully* liberated from every device of the enemy and shall be fully built up by what every joint and member supplies.

The third stream is the Jabbok (*Deut. 3:16*), meaning "outpouring." It refers to the great outpouring of Holy Spirit Baptism, providing the entrance into the 100-fold estate. It is to lead into full capability, in the power, authority and provision and protection accompanying the sealing of the Father (*Num. 21:13-24*). The Jabbok also is crossed as the people press northward to conquer all the land of Bashan north of Gilead (symbolizing dedication). The land north of both the Arnon and the Jabbok is to be possessed through personal response in the application of the rushing waters of the Spirit and then the great outpouring of the Spirit and in a life subsequently lived in the purity of the Spirit.

The Arnon was the boundary between Moab and the land of the Amorites. Sihon (rooting out) held all the land up to the Jabbok. Sihon typifies those who rise up against God and His people, rooting out the Truth to replace it with half-truths tending to destroy God's Truth. Og (giant) held Bashan, north of the Jabbok beyond and east of the Sea of Galilee. Bashan refers to thin soil, limiting growth. Og was the last of the enemy giants. Even Og, the strongest and tallest of the giants, has to be conquered. Og links with the greatest of the desire drives affecting humans. The giant of the sex drive also must be put under control. The word Og pictures a giant, but also long necked! After overcoming Og, there was nothing on the east side of Jordan which the enemy could successfully bring up against them. Then the Chosen People returned to Shittim (picturing a white, fine grained, strong acacia wood), opposite Jericho, to be readied for the Jordan crossing.

It was at the Jabbok where Jacob wrestled with the Angel of God during the time of extreme crisis in his life (*Gen. 32:22-32*). He was returning to the Land of Promise, after spending many years away from it. The place of crossing also symbolizes the time soon coming when true Christians, having spent almost 2000 years away from their

Promised Land, shall face the greatest crisis ever in the history of the world, as they press into *their* promised inheritance. The beast powers of **Revelation 13** will be reaching their ascendance and the allied *religious* forces will be giving their support to World Government controlled by the prince of darkness. Watch, for you may be surprised at the denominations that swing support for this government.

In the journey from Mt. Seir, there were four stages: Mt. Seir – Zered, Zered – Arnon, Arnon – Jabbok, and Jabbok – Shittim. The fifth stage, on the west side of the Jordan, brought in the number of grace, of freedom-setting power and release (5). It began with the crossing of the Jordan (“mighty descender” and “destroyer” – a symbol of death). It continued and was to finish with coming into the Promised Land, with the full power and the authority of the immortal Christ Spirit, to dispossess all enemy hosts of all their “land” (**Deut. 1:7, Josh. 5:13-15**). As a result of the Jordan crossing, the Israelites were prepared for the final assault on the remaining enemy, who by then was on the defensive. This assault was to fully displace the enemy.

The east side of Jordan must be possessed, as preliminary to the crossing over into Canaan’s land. The meaning of this is that the land now occupied by the “Amorites” (**Deut. 2:24**) must be possessed by driving out the enemy. The word “Amorite” means ‘that which is high’ or ‘lifted up’, and it is applied symbolically to those who are elevated or lifted up and given prominent position by man. The Amorites picture those and that which is hindering God’s children from possessing their full inheritance, by the practice of giving to men the prominence and glory that belongs only to God.

Why do Christians continue to listen to the voice of man, instead of the voice of God? Why do they continue to elevate men into prominence with all kinds of titles and positions, as if they were the essence of all spirituality and could do no wrong? The Lord would have His people give honor to those who are His true ministers – because of the ministry and anointing He places on them, and not because of the person himself. The glorification of man’s flesh is an abomination to Him. The elevation of a man, giving him titles and a place of recognition and authority in some man-made religious organization or system is a stench in God’s nostrils. Those who will possess the inheritance must wake up and no longer sway to the erudition of a caste educated in colleges of darkness, giving man’s theology place before the Word of God. This is the Amorite which blocks the way into the Promised Land. This keeps people from progressing into what God has purposed, diverting them from His intended goal (**Lk. 11:52**).

Hear (conform to) God’s Word. You shall take the Sword of the Spirit which God has placed in your hand and utterly slay the Amorites. Make them ineffective, sparing not and giving no heed to any man’s flesh. True followers of Jesus Christ must give heed only to Him and to the ministers He raises up to speak His Word in this hour. His true ministers will be authenticated and will display the credentials of their God, just as Moses did in his day (**Mk. 16:17-18**). Even His embryonic ministers will show the beginnings of such a display so all who are truly seeking Him shall know (**Isa. 8:20**). The day is at hand when the hirelings will be scattered and only the true shepherds will be able to stand. God’s anointing shall be upon them and they shall speak as the oracle of their God. None shall be able to discount that which God gives them. These are to be heard and believed. Others who babble mere words are to be turned from and left behind (**Isa. 8:21-22**). Therefore, let us bare our Sword, even the Word of God, and begin the march into the Promised Land, conquering the east side of Jordan and driving

out all that is not of God. Let us take care not to elevate man, or the flesh, or be proud or haughty in our own spirit, for none such shall be able to enter in.

During our time, vast numbers of people are to be readied to cross Jordan into the full realms of the Kingdom. Initially, the Jordan, which is the mighty descender of death, is to be rolled back for a Firstfruits people, a chosen number. These first 144,000 shall cross over to ascend into the heavenly realms of glorified life (**Rev. 12:5**). Also during the following 1260 days of Tribulation, at least two, also having "crossed over" many years earlier, will begin to demonstrate the qualities and powers of earth-bound immortality in physical bodies. There are to be celestial immortal Firstfruits and earth-bound immortal firstfruits (**Matt. 6:10**). A little later and as a part of the being readied, the Church body fulfillment of the Jabbok takes place in a world-wide outpouring of God's Spirit on all flesh that is by then qualified to receive (**Joel 2:28-32, Rev. 12:17**). This outpouring is *the* fulfillment of Pentecost as God pours out His Spirit on those few so that a mighty Harvest might be brought forth. The Festival of Pentecost is at the time of the wheat harvest. The barley harvest is before Pentecost. Following the time of great spiritual outpouring, many more shall be progressively readied to conquer the east side of Jordan in preparation for a full entrance into the glories of the Kingdom in the Millennium.

The possessing of the east side of Jordan is preliminary and preparatory for each Christian. It is a necessary transition from the wilderness into becoming ready for a full entering into the Kingdom. The strongholds of the enemy represented by the Amorites must be torn down. And there must be an entrance into a maturing in the life of the Spirit, represented by the crossing of the brook Zered and the rivers Arnon and Jabbok. All that is of man, his ways and traditions must be destroyed by the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. And all who would progress in what the Lord is doing must *allow* the life-giving Spirit of Jesus Christ to do a perfecting work within them, letting Him bring them into ever higher realms of the Spirit. Then, and only then, will there be a readiness to cross over Jordan from the conquered east side (symbolizing control by the intellect or mind) to the west side (symbolizing control by the Spirit). Those who have been quickened to an understanding of what the Lord is doing are in the process of conquering the east side of Jordan. Do not think that you can cross over to the west side, until first this realm has been possessed. There are many who want a quick and easy way into the fullness of Kingdom blessings and powers, but there is *no* way except by way of the east side of Jordan. Come to understand the pattern and cooperate with the Lord so He can fulfill it within.

Read **Psalm 91:2-11**. The Lord does what He does only within our active cooperation. He has made all preparations and arrangements. So now it is our own initiative toward fulfilling His plan which releases His enablement for the work He has already arranged for us to take up.

Abide in the Lord, and He will abide in you. Only as you abide in Him and let Him abide in you, can you fulfill what He requires. But what does it mean to abide in Him? It means to remain in that position in which He placed you. It is in the place and position of rest from your own striving outside of His plan, and thereby in the place of security from all the devices of the enemy. He would not have you so strive in your own limited strength. Neither would He have you fight your own battles with your limited concepts and weapons. He wishes you to know that *He* has made full provision

for you, as you will wholly trust Him and abide in Him. If you will abide, or rest in Him, He will protect you and strengthen you. Yet many have and may yet miss much of the Lord's intent in His discourse on abiding.

Abiding in Jesus means abiding in the Word of (Yahweh) Jesus (Old Testament and New). Abiding in the Word means both earnest seeking for knowledge of what is there and the whole-hearted response in conformance to what is revealed (*Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37; Jn. 14:21,24*). There *is* to be striving after Him in His Word and there *is* to be striving for alignment with it. Trusting in Him is the willing conformance to His plan (*Phil. 3:13-14, Jn. 15:5,7,10,11*). The abiding of which He speaks is exactly like the abiding relationship He had with His Father (*Jn. 17:21*). He as much as says, "If your love for Me can so continue always, to make My slightest wish your burden to accomplish, then whatever you may ask shall be My joy to grant you."

To abide means to trust. Are you willing to believe that He has made provision for all that you need to live a victorious and overcoming Christian life? Has He not made known His love for you in the giving of His very life for you? If then He has provided for your salvation, is He not able further to preserve you and keep you and protect you as you abide and trust in Him? It is written, He is your protection and covering. You have been provided a home, a resting place in Him. As one lies down in rest and security in his physical home, so does He want His people to abide, to rest and rely on Him, because He is there to be your dwelling place. He has made provision for *all* your needs. So joyfully put your trust in Him, to let Him cover and protect you (*Ps. 91:2-11*).

He is faithful and true. If you abide in Him, will He not also abide in you? He will take up His abode in you and, through His Word and His Spirit, will remain in you and will perfect Himself in you. He is your life and your strength. But only as He abides in you can He accomplish His purpose in your life. Therefore, study His Word and seek His Face daily. Spend much time in thought and praise and adoration. For only as you seek him diligently can He fully abide in you to do His perfecting (completing).

Now you can see why He counsels "abide in Me and let Me abide in you." This is the secret of an effective and victorious Christian life. He has made a home for you in Him and *this* home is your security and protection. And He will then also make His home in you. This presence is your strength and vitality. Therefore, see and understand that it is by *active* faith and trust you abide in Him. See and understand also, it is by His Word and Spirit that He abides in you. Both are necessary. Only as you first abide in Him can He have free reign to abide in you. The initiative at this stage is with you. When you worry and strive and try to work out everything in a plan differing from His, or when you try to carry on your own battles without using weapons He designed, you are in effect separating yourself from Him and going outside of that protection and security which He has provided for you. You are exposing yourself to the enemy's attacks. And you are unable to overcome, because you are not taking advantage of what He has provided.

When you accepted Him and were born of His Spirit, He placed you potentially in a position of absolute protection from all the wiles of the enemy (*Jn. 16:33, Col. 2:11, Rom. 6:3-6, Gal. 5:16, I Jn. 4:4*). He placed you to be in Himself. Do you think the enemy can get through the Lord Jesus Christ? Of course not! But when you fail to abide and rest in Him and His plan in complete confidence and trust, you, in effect, go outside of Him and expose yourself to all of the attacks of the enemy. In that situation,

He is not able to protect you because He must have your cooperation. If you refuse to stay where He has placed you, how can He defend you? If you take things into your own hands and try to fight the enemy according to your plan, He is powerless to come to your aid. It is only as you look to Him and His plan with complete confidence and faith that He is able to act on your behalf. Therefore, trust Him, those of you who would be *His* people, and abide in that perfect resting place which He has provided. In Him alone there is complete deliverance and protection from all that the enemy would send against you.

To abide in Him is necessary for your protection. Nevertheless, to finish and complete the work He has begun in you, it is necessary for Him to abide in you. He is perfectly willing to do this now, but again He is limited by your willingness to let Him abide in you. Only as you study God's Word and meditate on its precepts, only as you spend much time learning and thinking of His ways and then praising Him in honesty with your whole heart, desiring to commune with Him at all times, can He truly abide in you as He desires and perfect His work in you (*Phil. 1:6*). He would bring into your innermost being His love, His joy and His peace. He would impart to you that humbleness and gentleness which is a part of His own being. He would infuse into you His holiness and His righteousness, that you might be fully clothed and ready for His wedding celebration, when He gathers His own to Himself (all who have adequately overcome).

This abiding in Him is like that of a certain branch on the Vine; it is an intimate alignment and connection (*Jn. 15:5*). Therefore, the "branch" necessarily refers to the *regenerated* follower of Jesus Christ, either by the regeneration which enables the believer to see the earthly Kingdom although not yet within it, or that which enables the believer to *enter* the earthly Kingdom (*Jn. 3:3,5,12*). The importance of abiding is stressed in *John 15* by 7 references. The fruit bearing is just as important, being also cited 7 times. Fruit bearing is a vital part of discipleship to Jesus Christ (*Jn. 15:8*), but this is a deeper level of discipleship than man's churches yet recognize. Here there is a partial application to the *Galatians 5:23* fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, etc.), but that is only a small part. Let's look.

Jesus said no branch not abiding in Him can bear fruit. . . . Apart from Him, nothing can be done in fruit bearing (*Jn. 15:4-5*). But you and I know many "good" non-believers who demonstrate love, joy, peace, etc. Some of them even put some Christians to shame. Jesus also said the fruit bearing should continue so that the fruit *may* endure. There is the potential of *this* fruit not enduring. Therefore, this fruit differs from or is more than good deeds. Good deeds do endure, no matter who does them. The fruit Christ had in mind must have been associated with Life (*Jn. 15:2*). We know the real fruit of any plant or tree is its seed, essentially. The same applies to animals and humans. "When My Words (also referring to life seed) *remain* in you and continue to *live* in your hearts, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you" (*Jn. 15:3,7; Matt. 13:19; Jn. 6:63*).

Will you not learn what He is seeking to teach you? Abide; do not strive against Him. Trust; do not doubt His arrangements. Surrender; be not unyielding to His plan. Put your full confidence in Him and search out that perfect resting place of complete protection which He provides. Surely you will find that He is the fullness of your joy and the fullness of your peace, as you learn to trust Him implicitly in *every* developing

situation and condition.

The Lord's workings are by His Spirit, but first He must have a vessel completely yielded and pliable in His hands. Then He is able to bring the thoughts and desires of your innermost being into that which magnifies Him and manifests His perfect will (**II Cor. 10:5**). When you come to this place of complete yielding, you will be amazed at how quickly He is able to transform you into the image and fashion He desires. And you will be amazed at how much you desire only the pure things of His Word and His Spirit. It is the utter abandonment to Him and the utter indifference to the worldly cares and concerns that enables Him to accomplish a quick work in you.

The servant who does not know his Lord's will and does not prepare will be beaten with few stripes, but the servant who does know and does not prepare shall be beaten with many stripes (**Lk. 12:47-48**). Unto whom much is given, much shall be required. Knowledge and understanding of truth bring responsibility. The "stripes" are not literal. For us, they refer to the time of Tribulation coming on the earth. In part, they indicate a lack of qualifying for His complete protection and guidance during that difficult and chaotic time. They are a natural consequence of failure to prepare.

: 14 With reference to the Great Tribulation period, we should recall that **Revelation 11:1-14** is still under the sixth Trumpet period. The teaching on it began at **Revelation 9:13** and announced the eventual release of the communist armies to overrun the nations. This overrunning is the second Woe. The first Woe was associated with the blowing of the fifth Trumpet, which warned of the progressive release of hosts of demons to torment and to hurt men. The demon numbers and the resultant hurt continue to develop in intensity to the end of the age. The second Woe, too, has progressed beyond recall and continues to develop in scope and intensity to the end of the age. The third Woe is connected with the blowing of the seventh Trumpet, but it does not come at the incepting blast. The third Woe is reserved until the very end of the age, after the seventh Trumpet has been sounding for 3 1/2 years and after its final blast reverberates around this planet.

: 15 When the seventh Trumpet blows its lengthy and mighty summons (also pictured in **Ex. 19:13,19**), during all of the 3 1/2 years of Great Tribulation, events are begun which develop quickly and inexorably toward their consummation in the final blast. It is its final note which announces the official transfer of the kingdom or rule of the world under Satan, to the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. With Him, there are those trained, tested and qualified to become His anointed rulers (**Rev. 2:26, 3:21**).

The transfer requires two things. First, His anointed ones who make up His glorified company and who are able to rule with Him over the Kingdoms of the earth, will have had to be received into the heavenly Kingdom. Second, all effective opposition to His rule will have had to be put down on earth. Then He can be received by a people crying out for His rule, who will welcome His return to take up the reins of government. His coming for the Harvest Company, headed by the two witnesses, will touch off the climax of World War III. Ten days after that call-up, on the Day of Atonement, millions will be dying by the hour (**Acts 3:23, Isa. 13:9**). Of necessity, He personally will have to intervene and put an end to man's insane efforts to exterminate man – lest all flesh perish (**Matt. 24:22**). When He personally returns to earth, it will be in response to the earnest call of all those who yearn for His appearing.

:16-17 In Heaven, there is rejoicing and thanksgiving for the mighty work of God which has released the “world” from the domination of Satan and his organization, with Christ taking up the reign in great power.

:18 As all these things announced by the seventh Trumpet are being fulfilled and Satan sees the end at hand, the nations will rage in one last-gasp effort of destruction. The persistently rebellious against God are to be destroyed. But God’s servants are to be rewarded according to what they have done with Jesus Christ (*Rev. 2:23*).

:19 With the victory completely demonstrated in the anointed Body of Christians, God’s Holy of Holies in Heaven opens. There the heavenly and original Ark of His Covenant is exposed to view. Then God’s wrath comes forth to be poured out with awesome effect on the earth (*Rev. 15:1-5, 16:18*). His wrath is also evidenced in His withholding His hand of protection, letting rebellious man inflict almost total destruction upon himself.

The kingdom time has come. The reign of the King is to begin; the marriage of the King is at hand. His Bride is ready for presentation to His Father at the Temple in the highest Heaven. The wedding guests have arrived. The Temple is opened to welcome them, but first the seven angels with their seven Bowls of God’s Wrath must come out to pour them on earth – men who remain in rebellion against God – to cleanse His Temple on earth (*Rev. 15:6*).